

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Volume 11 No. 7 - July, 2003

From The President's Desk

Through the eyes of a child...

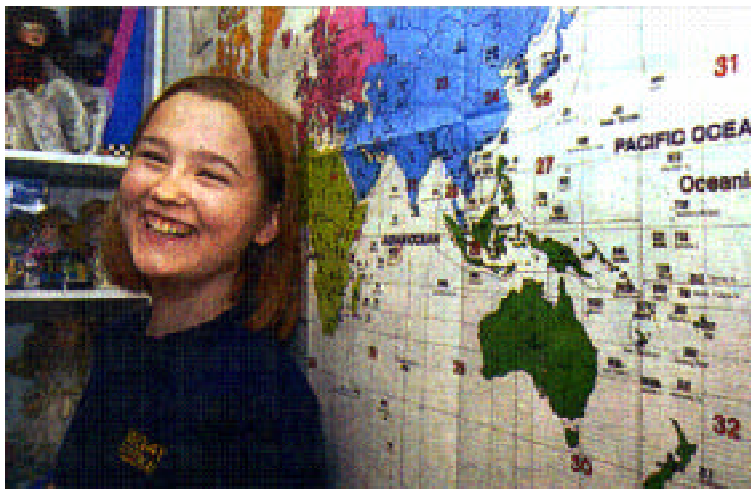
Several weeks ago, two to be exact as I write this, I participated in a few "Kids' Day" contacts. One stood out as I was scanning the bands, on 20 meters at 14.270, a young lady was stacking up contact after contact. Her radio voice was clear, pronunciation distinct, radio operating flawless. She had control of her frequency and managed all of her QSO's. Her favorite color was purple and she hailed from Birmingham, Alabama. Her call is WG4Y, her name Rebekah and her age is 10! I did call her and had a brief QSO with her - I think she was more interested in meeting and talking to other kids - and that is fine. No it's not just fine, it is great!

We are one of the oldest clubs in the country more than 85 years of continuous operation as a club... and we probably have many members that are of about the same age! Nothing wrong there, but we do need new, younger, members. Members that will ensure the continuation of this club and the programs we support for the next few decades and more! Of course it is not just the club I speak about here; it is also Amateur Radio as a whole. Unless we can get our kids interested, the club and Amateur Radio with it will wither and go away like so many dinosaurs.

During Field Day, I was ever so thrilled to see the interest of several younger folks. They looked at the radio gear, they operated some of the stations, they even had a contest for the most contacts... If the bands had been better, I could imagine their contact totals would have been in the hundreds! They had control of their frequency, they went from one call

to the other, they were courteous and closed their calls with a "thank you and good luck..." great operating and it was obvious as I watched them - great fun!

This brings me back to Rebekah, WG4Y. It was obvious she was having a great time. She was careful in each QSO - she was courteous and yet she was determined to go on to the next call. I received a prize today - from Barbara Brewer, KB9TIV, she sent me a copy of the whole newspaper, the Birmingham Post Herald, with a signature and best regards "73" from Rebecca! Makes one heck of a QSL card! Actually it is addressed to the club "TO: MRAC 73, Rebekah". I don't think that Barbara knew I had spoken with WG4Y so it is most likely a happy coincidence! I'll bring the newspaper to the next meeting for all to share. For now - I'll just scan her picture!



Reprinted with permission from the Birmingham Post Herald.

This leads me to the real topic of this month's contribution, "Through The Eyes of a Child".

club officers

President (262) 965-3860
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Kevin Reeme KC9BZU

Secretary (414) 529-2512
Tom Schulte AB9EK

Treasurer (414) 357-6522
Mark Tellier AB9CD

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HamateurChatter Mailings

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Continued on pg 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY				
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 mtr. Net	Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)	Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130	AMSAT net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth)	Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10mtr.
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr.SSB NET	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-Swap Net Mon-Fri	

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

Through The Eyes of a Child

We must always be aware of what we show about our hobby/avocation. The best way to compare what we do with what we should do is to ask and answer the question: "What would a child see?" The answer is usually, they would see the truth! So for us, we must think in terms of our truths and remain constant in our goals and ideals. Our truths will come out in the eyes of the children we want to entice into our hobby. We need to entice them for the hobby to survive, but we can only do it with the truth, the truth that they can perceive directly. Yes, rest assured we can fool them – for a while – and we see this often as a youngster is brought into our hobby. Sometimes it is to please a parent, sometimes it is sibling rivalry, but the truth of it fades away and the interest wanes. The real hobby is communications. Communicating with gear that you control. It is not important whether you built it – that can be fun too, or whether you built the antenna – that's another fun thing to learn about. But the important thing is to span the

airwaves and like magic meet a stranger or a friend and share a moment – communicating! If we can portray that truth, the essence of our endeavor, then those youngsters that bite on that hook will stay in the hobby and the hobby will grow with their contributions. Remember that the eyes of a child will see through to the core of your soul, past all the extra words and opinions. Show them how much fun it is to communicate!

73

Patrick

Patrick
W9UQ



Our President,
Patrick Moretti
W9UQ

Upcoming Programs

Our June 26th meeting will feature Dick Wood giving a program on QRP.

Our July 31st meeting will feature **Mark Tellier - AB9CD** with a program on **Tower Raising**.

August 28th meeting will be Don Michalski talking about ARRL.

If any of you have a program which would be interesting to our members, please don't be shy about letting us know about it. Or if you know of an interesting program by anyone else for our meetings don't hesitate, let us know about these programs. We'll see what we can do.



Our Solar Powered President, W9UQ

Membership Meeting May 29, 2003

Patrick, W9UQ the club's president, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. The microphone was passed for introductions. We had a guest from Poland, Tom Ciepelowski SP5CCC.

The club's secretary read a thank you letter from Jeananne, N9VSV, the EC for Milwaukee ARES. She was thanking the club for allowing the ARES group use of the club's repeater for the Miller Lite Ride for the Arts. Mark, AB9CD explained how important the repeater was for the ARES group. They were able to access the machine with a HT running 5 watts under a bridge. The repeater performed very well for the event.

Tom, AB9EK read the minutes of the May membership meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Mark, AB9CD gave the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Jerry, WA9CGE gave a status report on the upcoming Field Day event. Setup will start at 8:00am on Saturday June 27th at Pioneer Village. There will be

antennas set up for all bands and will be far enough apart so that each operating station will not interfere with the other operating on the same band but different mode. Nels, WA9YAL and his wife will be doing the food preparation for the event. Since this is also the club's picnic, the starting time will be at 1:00pm and end around 5:00pm. Everyone come out and enjoy the festivities.

Mark gave a status report on the club's repeater. The radio room is taking shape and the others involved with this operation are moving in their equipment. The repeater will experience some outages as work continues at the site.

Patrick was given a newspaper article that was printed in a local community paper on June 23, 2003. The article was titled "Ham-ming It Up." Also a few weeks ago the National Radio Broadcast aired a program on Amateur radio that was prompted by a new book, Hello World.

Mark had some items that were for sale and all proceeds

went to the club. Patrick also had some items to auction off; an 807 tube with Japanese's and Chinese's writing on it and a book on ham radio from 1922.

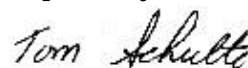
Our visitor from Poland was asked to tell us a little bit about himself. Tom, SP5CCC stated that he has been a ham since 1964 and likes to work CW. He is also active on HF SSB, VHF and UHF. He enjoys working the digital modes but he prefers CW. Tom stated that he was proud to be a guest at one of the oldest Amateur Radio Club around.

Sherm, KB9Q talked a bit on the new 60 meter band and how he is going to make a plug-in board for his Drake TR 7 in order to operate the band.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. Motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Dick Wood, W9JBE, provided the program on QRP.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Schulte, AB9EK
Club Secretary

NewMember

Welcome our newst members:
David Vigue
Daniel Darnieder



HamateurChatter

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is
(262) 797-MRAC or in numbers
(262) 797- 6 7 2 2.

Correspondence may
be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

If you have articles or other correspondence for the 'Chatter, please contact Pancho Doneis at: (414) 344-4694 or Email me at: pancho@thepark.net

BEST FIELD DAY YET!!!

Another field day is in the books. Were you there? Did you see everything that was going on?

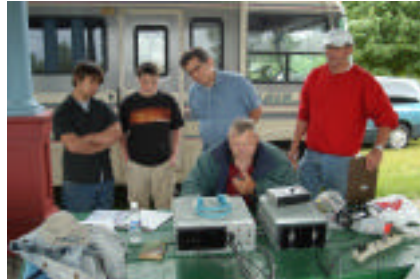
I was and I didn't!

Read on to see what you missed if you weren't there and maybe find out about something you missed if you were!

This was my third field day and certainly the best yet. While the rain on Saturday morning may have delayed or slowed the usual set-up, it didn't dampen the spirits of the setup crew. Patrick, W9UQ, and Brian, K9LCQ, arrived Friday evening and Patrick's RV was already adorned with antennas on Saturday morning. The normal process of putting up the famous MRAC ladder beam got the Saturday setup underway. The beam was followed by a trapped dipole (new this year and placed between a tree at the road and a mast tied to the column on the depot). Next was the tripod beam (set on the railroad tracks), another trapped dipole (between the semaphore and a tree behind the pole barn) and Jerry's, WA9CGE, normal assortment of beams and dipoles. It should be noted that Jerry's day began with the extra challenge of a flat tire, but he arrived in time to have all equipment setup before operating began at 1 PM. Nels, WA9YAL, and his wife, Melody, were the food stewards for the weekend. We had a fantastic lunch of brats, hamburgers and hot dogs done on the grill along with every possible picnic lunch fixin' before operating began. The food continued all afternoon as a part of the club picnic done in conjunction with field day.

We started operating as 4 alpha and changed to 5 alpha when another station was added in early afternoon.

Kevin, KC9BZU, brought his sons Colin and Levi and one of their friends, Trevor, to field day. Colin and Trevor were challenged to work the most contacts (Patrick



MRAC Gota (*Get On The Air*) Station

told them they needed 100!), to earn a copy of the new Technician exam book from W5YI. Band conditions were not very good most of the day, making contacts difficult. They were persistent and did make quite a few contacts through the afternoon and early evening. Levi also worked on making contacts, although I wasn't able to keep track. I learned he operated for two or three hours straight to earn his contacts! Their efforts were rewarded... read on. Another new face at field day this year was DJ, KC9AYO. As many of you know, DJ has taken over the "Code on the Air" classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings. I understand this was DJ's second field day (first with us) and was happy to find open station time to get on the air. I remember how "cool" MRAC was to let me get on the air my first year and I think DJ came away with this same feeling. This is a good lesson for those that haven't attended a field day. We get new people on the air and the training on how to work a field day contact is free! I've watched our very friendly mentors (like Dick, WB9PTC, Kevin, KC9BZU, and Jim, WB9LNU) make the experi-

ence fun and easy for folks from age 7 to age 77! While operating continued through the afternoon, there was plenty of time for eyeball QSO's. In fact, I think more contacts were made during the picnic than on the air during part of the afternoon!

An MRAC field day is as much about fun as it is a field day score. As afternoon turned to evening, we enjoyed a repeat of the lunch menu (or finally got to try one of everything) for dinner before continuing operating until dark. At dark, the (now famous) MRAC field day movie was shown. This year the group enjoyed the movie *Contact* and this year the movie included freshly popped popcorn! Following the movie, we awarded Colin and Trevor the Technician book and made them promise to study for the VEC test in July. Levi was awarded a GOTA (*Get On The Air*) pin for his on the air work.

After the movie, those staying overnight returned to operating until the wee hours of the morning. As conscious life returned on Sunday morning, operating resumed. Nels and Melody returned to provide a pancake, scrambled eggs and sausage breakfast.

Again it was fantastic. On Sunday morning, Tom, KG9EE, brought his 13 year old niece, Catherine, KB1JMF, from Bristol, VT., to field day. Catherine has a tech class license and was introduced to HF.

I should mention that there were many other visitors, but I seem to mostly remember the younger folks that came out and operated. Operating ended around noontime and the take down effort began. Most equipment was down and ready to go home by 3 PM (a new record in my three years). And with that, another successful field day was

in the books.

This article would be incomplete without recognizing some special efforts on the part of individuals to make this the best field day yet. First on my list is Nel's and Melody for their work in keeping everyone well fed with the best food ever at field day. I heard rave reviews all weekend (and not just during mealtime) and many times since about how great the food was. Full credit for this goes to Nel's (WA9YAJ) and Melody (XYT). Thank you, thank you, thank you. The good news is that they'll be back next year!

We need to give special thanks to Jerry, WA9CGE, our field day

coordinator. This is no small task, requires much preparation work in advance of the day, comes with plenty of problems to deal with during the day and then requires even more work after the event is over to organize and file the required paperwork. Most of this is behind the scenes and goes without notice. To Jerry, thank you, thank you, thank you.

The set up and take down crews also need to be recog-

nized. Many of these folks are there to do both! Thanks to all of you (you know who you are!). Special thanks to Jerry, WA9CGE and Jim, WB9LNU, for bringing the bulk of the equipment we use at field day.

This requires a great deal of time before field day to load the cars, trucks and trailers and a similar amount of time after field day to put everything away again until next year. Bravo and thanks! And, of course, thanks to all of those that came out and operated a station. Some came for a few minutes and some for a few hours. Your time was appreciated. We need more like you.

Lastly, I want to thank those that brought kids and/or first time operators to field day. The energy this added to the area was unmistakable! I hope we get a few new hams out of the deal as well!

One final comment. DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR!

73s,
Mark - AB9CD

MRAC VEC- A Exam Schedule

Due to the scarcity of Examinations during the summer we have **scheduled a special session** on:

- **Saturday, July 26, 2003**
9:30 AM – AES

AES is Amateur Electronics Supply and is located at 5700 W. Good Hope Rd. in Milwaukee, WI.

Exam Requirements

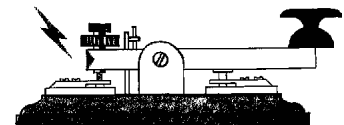
When coming to take an exam, please **bring your present original license** (if you have one) **plus a copy** for our records. Also bring **any CSCE's (and a copy of each)** which might pertain to the license upgrade for which you are striving. If you wish to apply for a grandfathered credit (for example, an old novice license credit for the EL-1 code exam) you must furnish **written proof of this credit**. Please bring along **2 forms of ID** including **one with your picture**. The fee

for the exam remains at \$8.⁰⁰. If you need to retake an exam element at the same session, a separate \$8.⁰⁰ fee is charged. Please bring a pen, pencils, and a simple, non-programmable calculator and **no cell phones**.

Thank you.

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL



June 9, 2003

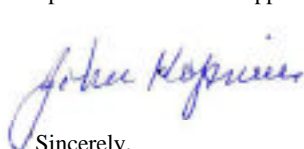
Patrick Moretti
W9UQ
President
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Dear Patrick and members of MRAC:

On behalf of all the amateur radio volunteers participating in the Miller Lite Ride for the arts and Milwaukee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, we would like to thank you for the use of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club repeater for the Miller Ride on June 1st.

As users of the MRAC repeater (and others), we recognize what a significant donation your members gave by allowing us to use your repeater for a good portion of the day. Although we didn't use it constantly, you should know that it played a key role in some of the more secluded, low areas along the route. It worked very well. Your actions are truly in the spirit of good amateur radio practice!

Providing communications for an event the size of the Miller Ride is always challenging and having good operators and quality equipment is critical. The ride was a success, in part, because of your great repeater. We are most appreciative.



Sincerely,
John Kopmeier
N9ZJD
Event Coordinator

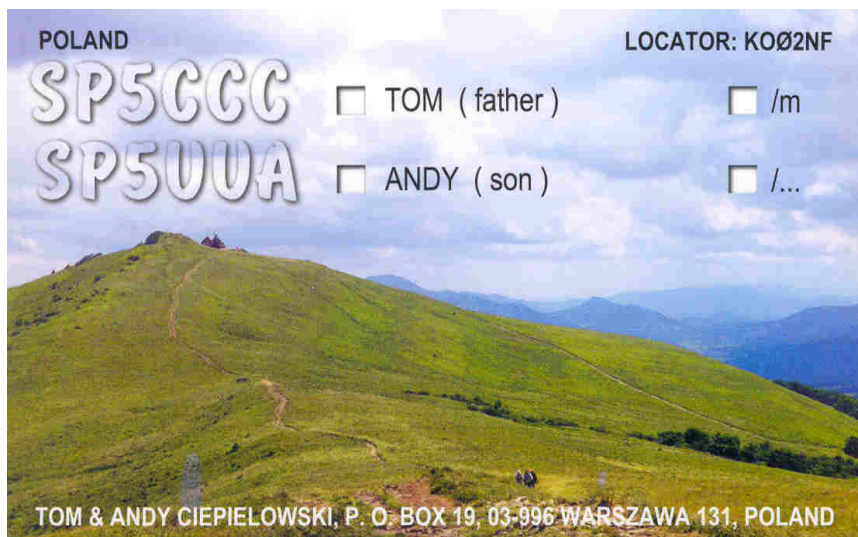


Phil Bogacki
KB9KEE
Event Coordinator



Jeananne Bargholz
N9VSV
EC, Milwaukee ARES

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QSL card from Tom Ciepielowski from Warsaw, Poland, who visited our meeting last month.

EVENTS

* indicates VEC Testing

VE Testing *

MRAC General Meeting
Jul. 31, 2003

Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG. 9, 2003
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315* (PL123.0 Hz) rpt.

HamFester's Radio Club HamFest *
SUN. - AUG. 10, 2003
Will Co. Fairgrounds
Peotone, IL
T/I on 146.52 simp

Bolingbrook Amateur Radio
Society's HamFest *
SUN - AUG. 24, 2003
Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds
Jefferson, WI
T/I on 147.33+ & 224.54- rpt.s

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Aug. 28, 2003

Peoria SuperFest *
FRI., SAT. & SUN. - SEP. 19-21, '03
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075- rpt

Radio Expo 2003 *
SAT. & SUN. - SEP. 27 & 28, 2003
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 (PL 107.2 Hz) rpt.

South Bend Regional HamFest
SUN. OCT. 5, 2003
Elkhart Co. Fairgrounds
Goshen, IN
T/I on 145.43 - rpt.

Ft. Wayne HamFest
SAT. & SUN. - NOV. 15 & 16, 2003
Allen Co. War Mem. Coliseum Expo
Ctr.
Ft. Wayne, IN
T/I on 146.88 (-) rpt.



Use it or lose it -- our Repeater.

145.390 MHz - offset and PL of 127.3Hz

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for year
2003 through August:

Thu. - Jul. 31, '03
Thu. - Aug. 28, '03

See you there!

Pancho
Pancho - KA9OFA

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors
this month:

AB9CD	W9JBE	K9TNN
AB9EK	K9LCQ	W9UQ
WD9HOT		KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Mark Tellier for help in the proof-reading dept. Our thanks goes to Jerry Wahlen for making sure that the 'Chatter' gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald, and Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.



Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Thanks to Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE for hosting our Friday night nets and chairing the Field Day committee.

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Thank YOU!

MRAC

Meetings are normally held the last Thursday of each month except in December.

Our next meeting is;

Thursday - July 31, 2003.

at 7:00 PM at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church

Attention!!!

Program for the
Thursday - July 31, 2003
MRAC meeting will be a
presentation by **Mark
Tellier - AB9CD** on
Tower Raising.

Visit our Website **<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>**
Our Phone (262) 797-MRAC
797 - 6 7 2 2



Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
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M.R.A.C.